

REMARKS

The claims are 47 to 59.

New claims 47 to 49 replace previous claim 35.

New claims 50 and 51 replace previous claims 36 and 37, respectively.

New claims 53 to 59 replace previous claims 39 to 45, respectively.

The significance of this amendment will be discussed in further detail below.

The above amendment is responsive to the Final Rejection of September 7, 2005.

In this regard, claims 35 to 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Tada et al. (WO 98/27021 and U.S. 6,379,776).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present claims are presented to more clearly distinguish over the prior art.

As is apparent from new main claim 47, the present process for producing an oxide comprising anatase titania involves three steps.

The first step involves forming a solution comprising a hydrolyzable titanium compound and an organic polymer in an organic solvent.

Next, the titanium compound is hydrolyzed to form a gel and then the gel is reacted with hot water at 100°C or below to elute the polymer from the gel to produce the oxide comprising anatase titania.

In the above process the ratio of organic polymer to the oxide comprising anatase titania is from 0.5 to 10.

By eluting the organic polymer from the gel, surface properties such as porosity of the anatase titania are advantageously controlled.

This is particularly useful in the formation of films of anatase titania.

In this regard, see the first full paragraph on page 8 of the specification as well as the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 of the present specification.

With regard to Tada (U.S. 6,379,776), there is no disclosure or suggestion therein to produce a gel from a solution containing an organic polymer and a hydrolyzable titanium compound and then react the gel with hot water to elute the organic polymer therefrom and to produce anatase titania.

Claims 35 to 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Remy (U.S. 6,224,884).

This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

With regard to Remy (U.S. 6,224,884), again, no mention is made of reacting the gel with hot water to elute the organic polymer there from to produce anatase titania of controlled surface properties.

For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that the rejections on prior art are untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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